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Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 NRC-07 /186 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 13 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR, HELSINKI FOR ASAT

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1. ERIC BOURNE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, IN DISPATCH FROM VIENNA, SAID WARSAW PACT NATIONS "HAVE TAKEN WHAT APPEARS AT FIRST SIGHT TO BE MODEST STEP TOWARD WESTERN IDEAS OF FAIR BALANCE OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE." BOURNE SAID WARSAW PACT, IN JUNE 8 RESPONSE TO NATO PACKAGE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD AT MBFR TALKS APRIL 19, ALSO IS SAID TO BE SEQUEL TO SCHMIDT-BREZHNEV DISCUSSION LAST MONTH ON MBFR

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STALEMATE. BOURNE SAID SO FAR AS WAS DISCLOSED, "LANGUAGE IN WHICH OFFER WAS CLOTHED SOUNDS AMBIGUOUS. NATO NATIONS ARE WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN VERY CLOSELY STUDIED. FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS, HOWEVER, WARSAW PACT POWERS SEEM AT LAST TO BE MODIFYING GRADUALLY THEIR HITHERTO RIGID AND EVASIVE POSITION ON MANPOWER CEILINGS FOR EACH SIDE'S FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. EAST BLOC SPOKESMAN SAID NEW PROPOSAL ENVISIONED COMMON CEILING OF 900,000 TROOPS FOR EACH ALLIANCE, OF WHOM 700,000 APPARENTLY WOULD BE COUNTED COMBAT TROOPS. THIS INVOLVES QUESTIONABLE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION, HOWEVER, THAT TWO PACTS ALREADY HAVE

APPROXIMATELY SAME STRENGTHS OVERALL. WEST DOES NOT ACCEPT THIS. AND, IN FACT, THIS ASSUMPTION COULD NEGATE ANY MERIT IN SOVIET SIDE'S PROPOSAL. FOR FIGURES AT NATO'S DISPOSAL POINT TO PRESENT WARSAW PACT ADVANTAGE OF SOME 150,000 SOLDIERS AND MASSIVE TANK SUPERIORITY AS WELL. WEST WILL WANT THIS DISPUTE RESOLVED IF EAST'S LATEST FORMULATION IS TO BE TAKEN AS REALISTIC EFFORT TOWARD AGREEMENT." BOURNE SAID BOTH NATO AND WARSAW PROPOSALS REMAIN CONTINGENT ON PRIOR AGREEMENT ON FIGURES OF EXISTING MANPOWER. "THIS MEANS RUSSIANS MUST EITHER ADMIT OR ACCOUNT FOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR OWN AND NATO'S ESTIMATE OF THEIR TROOP NUMBERS."

2. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED CARTER ADMINI-
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STRATION OFFICIALS AS SAYING WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL COULD BE IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH IN LONG-STALLED MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. "WE NOW HAVE BASIS FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS," WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID. BUT BURT EMPHASIZED THAT UNLESS NEGOTIATORS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN RESOLVING DISAGREEMENT OVER ESTIMATES OF PRESENT TROOP LEVELS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE AN ACCORD. "YET MOSCOW'S ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY IS NEVERTHELESS SEEN AS ENCOURAGING," BURT SAID.

3. WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT U.S. WOULD NOT EMPLOY NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PROMISED NOT TO DEVELOP SUCH WEAPONS OR ARE NOT ALLIED TO NUCLEAR POWER. BERNARD GWERTZMAN SAID PLEDGE, READ TO REPORTERS BY SECRETARY VANCE, "IS UNILATERAL POLICY STATEMENT AND IS NOT PROPOSED AS PART OF ANY TREATY. IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON NUCLEAR BALANCE AND IS VIEWED LARGELY AS POLITICAL GESTURE. DAN OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID "73-WORD PLEDGE WILL HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL EFFECT ON U.S. POLICY ON USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, OFFICIALS CONCEDED.... NEVERTHELESS, PROPONENTS

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OF PLEDGE WITHIN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT STATEMENT WILL HAVE POSITIVE POLITICAL IMPACT ON THIRD WORLD NATIONS AND PARTICULARLY THOSE SUCH AS INDIA WHICH HAVE NOT YET SIGNED NPT RENOUNCING ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.... AT U.N. LAST OCTOBER, CARTER SAID PRETTY MUCH SAME THING, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO STATES THAT RENOUNCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.... STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO BRIEFED REPORTERS FOLLOWING VANCE'S ANNOUNCEMENT SAID NEW FORMULATION DID NOT AFFECT LONGSTANDING U.S. REFUSAL TO RULE OUT OPTION OF USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST MASSIVE SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ATTACK IN EUROPE OR NORTH KOREAN ATTACK AGAINST SOUTH KOREA."

4. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH
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FROM STOCKHOLM REPORTING THAT SOVIET UNION SET OFF ITS MOST POWERFUL UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION THIS YEAR AT SIBERIAN MILITARY TEST SITE. SWEDISH SEISMOLOGISTS SAID BLAST WAS FOURTH AND STRONGEST EXPLOSION REGISTERED THIS YEAR AT SEMIPALATINSK SITE IN WESTERN SIBERIA. BLAST MEASURED 6.8 ON RICHTER SCALE. AP SAID EARTHQUAKE OR OTHER EARTH MOVEMENT OF 6 ON OPEN-ENDED RICHTER SCALE IS CAPABLE OF CAUSING SEVERE DAMAGE LOCALLY.

5. DANIEL GREENBERG, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST OBSERVED THAT IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CTB OPPONENTS, WHO FORMERLY FOCUSED ON POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET CHEATING, "HAVE NEW STARTER IN CONTROVERSY--NAMELY, THAT TESTS ARE NECESSARY TO CHECK FIRABILITY OF WEAPONS IN AGING STOCK-PILE. TURN TO THAT ARGUMENT, OF WHICH LITTLE OR NOTHING WAS HEARD IN FIRST 20 YEARS OF TEST BAN DEBATE, REFLECTS FACT THAT CHEATING POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN MASSIVELY REDUCED BY REMARKABLE ADVANCES IN SEISMOLOGY AND DATA ANALYSIS." GREENBERG QUOTING FORMER DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, SAID MILITARY HAS HERETOFORE SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN "PROOF TESTING" THOUGH SUCH CHECKS ARE NOW PUT FORTH BY TEST BAN OPPONENTS AS HIGHLY NECESSARY.

6. AVIATION WEEK SAID CARTER "WILL ATTEMPT TO COUNTER OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ZERO-YIELD NUCLEAR TEST BAN BY JCS AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AT MEETING JUNE 12 OF NSC'S SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE. MEETING WAS CALLED BECAUSE OF THEIR OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING ZERO-YIELD TEST BAN." CHRISTOPHER

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